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## DEATH OF MR. THOMAS J. CROWDER.

The Illinois State Historical Society has lost in the death of Mr. Thomas J. Crowder, of Springfield, Ill., one of its earliest and most faithful members and friends.

Mr. Crowder died at his home in Springfield, Ill., Feb. 22, 1911. He was born May 28, 1835, on a farm one-half mile west of Washington park. His father, John C. Crowder, came to Springfield township November 1, 1824. The decedent was a minister of the Methodist denomination, and at the time of the civil war was debarred from enlisting only by physical defects. He was a member of the Illinois State Historical Society, and was the author of the novel, "What Shall It Be?" a religious work which gained wide circulation.

His first wife was Elizabeth F. Wright, whom he married June 24, 1856, and who died December 4, 1872. He married Miss Martha Tomlin, January 24, 1874, who survives him. Four children, William and Martha Louise, both at home, Mrs. Elizabeth C. George and Edward Crowder, of this city survive. Four grandchildren also are left. Mr. Crowder is survived also by three sisters, Mrs. Frances McKee, Mrs. Annie Wright, of this city, and Miss Louise Crowder, of Iowa, and two brothers, John J. of Peoria, and Joseph W., of this city.

Mr. Crowder will be missed by a large circle of friends to whom his kindly, friendly and appreciative words were always a source of help and inspiration.

No member of the Illinois State Historical Society visited the rooms of the Society more frequently, and the Library had no more welcome guest. The secretary of the Society and her associates all bear testimony to his kindness to them individually and his faithfulness to the Society. He will long be missed and his labors will continue to bear fruit though his genial face is seen no more amongst us.